

**The Presidential Candidates' Positions on LGBT Issues – June 2004**

CANDIDATE	SEXUAL ORIENTATION NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS	GENDER IDENTITY NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS	HIV/AIDS PREVENTION & TREATMENT	LIFTING MILITARY BAN	INCLUSIVE HATE CRIMES LAWS	SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR AND SPOUSAL BENEFITS	DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP	CIVIL UNIONS	MARRIAGE	ADOPTION	LGBT-SUPPORTIVE EDUCATION POLICY	FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT
George W. Bush	Opposes	Unclear	Opposes <sup>1</sup>	Opposes	Opposes	Opposes	Opposes <sup>2</sup>	Opposes	Opposes	Opposes	Unclear	Supports
John Kerry	Supports	Opposes <sup>3</sup>	Supports <sup>4</sup>	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports	Opposes	Supports	Supports <sup>5</sup>	Opposes

Unless otherwise noted, all responses are based on National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute survey (2003, April). While Senator Kerry completed this survey, the White House Press Office ignored repeated requests to do so. Source: Cahill, S., Hernandez, J., Hill, R., and Varghese, M. (2003). *The 2004 Democratic Presidential Candidates on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues*. Washington, DC: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at: <http://www.ngltf.org/downloads/CandidatesReport.pdf> and Cianciotto, J. & Colvin, R. (2003). *The Bush-Cheney Administration on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues*. Washington, DC: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at: <http://www.ngltf.org/electioncenter/BushCheneyKeyIssues.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> The Bush Administration has a mixed record on HIV/AIDS issues. While the President last year proposed a dramatic increase in funding for international prevention funding for domestic HIV/AIDS prevention has remained level. Bush has aggressively promoted abstinence-only-until-marriage both domestically and in Africa. Congress and the Administration have investigated AIDS service organizations for alleged obscenity violations, and investigated sex research through the National Institutes of Health.

<sup>2</sup> In 2000 Bush said, “In the private sector [domestic partner benefits] are perfectly fine.” On the governmental level, he said, the decision should be left up to cities and states. As governor however, Bush did nothing to advance domestic partner benefits, and in October 2003 he endorsed Marriage Protection Week, which opposed any form of partner recognition for gay couples. Bush has not indicated whether or not he supports domestic partner benefits for same-sex partners of federal employees. Mitchell, A. (2000, April 14). Bush talks to gays and calls it beneficial. *The New York Times*. p. A26. Such a bill was introduced into Congress in 2003.

<sup>3</sup> When asked about supporting a federal bill that would outlaw discrimination in the workplace based on gender identity and expression, Kerry responded, “I oppose discrimination of all kinds and my office policy prohibits discrimination in the workplace based on gender identity and expression. I believe that we should focus efforts on getting ENDA passed and signed into law, and I am concerned that adding gender identity and expression to the ENDA legislation is likely to significantly hinder that effort.” Campaign 2004: 2004 Presidential Questionnaire Responses. (n.d.). Human Rights Campaign. Retrieved December 2, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Kerry’s otherwise supportive record on this issue includes a 1993 vote to prevent people with AIDS from immigrating to the U.S. AIDS activists described Kerry as one of Congress’s top leaders on AIDS policy issues.

<sup>5</sup> In 1994 Kerry supported an amendment to the Improving America’s Schools Act prohibiting federal funds “for instructional materials, instruction, counseling, or other services on school grounds, from being used for the promotion of homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative” (Congressional Record 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress [1994, August] SAMDT 2433 to S 1513). Although Kerry’s 1994 vote was not welcome by LGBT youth and their advocates, his record before and since has been more supportive. In 1988 he voted against a bill that would have allowed religiously affiliated educational institutions in Washington DC to deny or restrict use of funds based on homosexuality. (AMDT to H.R. 4776). In 1995 he introduced the Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Prevention Act.